the advice of the Central Vigilance Commission, for initiating Departmental proceedings. The Ministry/Departmental may also recommend placing the concerned officer under suspension. However, the matter of suspension of the officer/his repatriation to the cadre or initiation of Departmental proceedings is considered and final decision taken, on merits of each case, by the Department of Personnel & Training being the competent authority, under the All India Services (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1969.

Filling up of SCs/STs vacancies

3462. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that backlog of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs since 1993 have not yet been filled up;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth centenary celebration Committee had recommended to Government to fill up the vacancies; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to implement the recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) In the year 1993, Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebration Committee had recommended removal of backlog in reservation in services. 30259 backlog vacancies reserved for SCs/STs were identified in 1993. Special Recruitment Drives were conducted to fill up backlog vacancies reserved for SCs/STs. Consequently, 15398, 13109 and 8571 backlog vacancies were filled up in 1993, 1995 and 1996, respectively.

Marking of attendance by Gazetted Officers

3463. DR. Y. RADHAKRISHNA MURTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are no fixed norms in regard to the marking of attendance by the personal staff and Gazetted Officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to frame/issue any guidelines in this regard?